

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

August 11, 2015

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Stephen F. Sonnett, President of the Board of Town Commissioners
James Storey, Commissioner / Treasurer
Larissa A. Ferrer, Commissioner

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Johnathon Clinkscales of the *So. Md. News* and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports*

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from July 14, 2015 and the Work Session minutes from July 28, 2015 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. One minor edit was noted by the Clerk. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from July's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

*Commissioner Storey to deliver the monthly financial report during his commissioner report.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Historical Committee Co-Chair, Linda Pennoyer announced that the "Memories & Morsels" event was a huge success. She reported that the TUMHC conducted two tours throughout the 4-hour event and gained lots of new historical information about the buildings along the Main Street of yesteryear, adding that the TUMHC plans to hold the event again. She also noted that the Spring Branch Estates "Link the Circle" Block Party went well too, as did the National Night Out. She announced that the TMHC will have a booth at both the "Cruzin' Main Street" event on August 22, and, the "Community Day" event at Union United Methodist Church on the August 29, 2015.

Commissioner Ferrer: Reported that she attended the "Thirsty for Business Thursday" event sponsored by the PGC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) on July 23rd at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Largo, MD. Topics of discussion included: Current news item and speculation concerning recent County real estate acquisitions and development in Largo, and, the PGC/EDC's Workforce Services Division (WSD) employment training service. She recommended the WSD program as a resource for future employee search efforts by the Town Administration.

Commissioner Storey: Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2015. He noted that total operational revenues and general government expenses were within an acceptable range of the 8.6% benchmark for 1 month into FY2016. He noted that Public Safety line item 8285/Insurance Workers Comp was slightly high due to new cruiser and equipment expenditures and will need to be adjusted later. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report; President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2015 was unanimously approved.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett announced that he met with senior executive officials of the Baker Administration on August 6th for one hour to discuss news reports concerning the County moving the Seat of Government. The County denied having ever stated that to the press, adding they were also aware of the legal procedures involved in such a move. Follow-up discussion dealt with how much of the County government can effectively and/or legally operate outside of the official seat of government. President Sonnett expressed his main concern that, should they move, that they don't leave behind empty buildings negatively impacting current downtown revitalization efforts. He was assured by the Baker Administration officials that the CAB will retain a full roster of County employees. He noted that the County Council has not yet authorized the \$12M required to conduct a move, and added that he has requested a meeting with Council Chair, Mel Franklin to further discuss that and other Town issues.

President Sonnett also discussed the Old Marlboro Elementary School (OMES) redevelopment assessment report at the meeting, suggesting to the County that they proceed to put out a solicitation for interest for adaptive reuse of the OMES. Further discussion also shed light onto confusion concerning future plans for the County-owned Old Stone Building at 14500 Old Crain Hwy.

A \$55K grant that had been offered by the M—NCPPC Planning Department for the “Streetscape Project” design work, but has since fallen through, will now hopefully be revisited and awarded in FY2016.

Though the Board agreed at the last Town Meeting to draft an ordinance establishing a Transportation Network Services Fee, the State Comptroller’s Office has since began renegotiating the statute’s meaning, which has put the new Town Ordinance on hold for now.

Business

RFP for Civil Engineer and related services (Board approval): The Board met with officials from the Department of Permitting, Inspections and the Environment (DPIE) on August 3rd, and with Mandatory Referral personnel on August 10th, to help secure answers concerning the 5K square foot limit of disturbance as it relates to the Town Hall Renovation & Addition project. President Sonnett said costs would go up significantly exceeding that threshold, and stated that the Board’s focus is to get the building the Town needs without going beyond it. The next step would be to get a site plan completed by a Civil Engineer. In conjunction with this first step, the Town is also negotiating an M.O.U. with the Board of Education to establish parking lot sharing for infrequent overflow parking situations, in an effort to help keep from going beyond the limit of disturbance. Even though a formal vote was not required, the President asked for Board approval to proceed to develop a RFP. All were in favor.

Public Works Facility (utility easement): Still working extensively with the WSSC to establish a water connection--investigating pipe location, easement records, and an egress to expand for utility additions.

Surplus items (Public Safety uniforms): The President asked for authorization to surplus old Public Safety uniforms that no longer fit police personnel. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to authorize the surplus; Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. Authorization to approve the surplus of the old uniforms was unanimous.

General/Administration issues: The date for the August Work Session was moved up to August 18, 2015 due to a conflict with staff leave schedule. It was noted that a Town Charter amendment should be implemented to add an alternate Town staffer(s) to render meeting minutes in the Clerk’s absence.

Public Comment

A suggestion to look into permeable paver parking lots as an option was discussed, however it was noted that, though a “green” solution, the area of disturbance limits still applied to its installation. Another option offered up was to provide a parking lot on a separate parcel, thus allowing for a new 5K square foot disturbance area to work within.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ferrer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk

